

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DHEW/SRS- SFCP INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM.

REF: METZNER'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 20, 1974 TO DR. MCCAVITT

EMBASSY OFFICERS MET COL. P.N. LUTHRA, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND REVIEWED WITH HIM STATUS OF SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICE (SRS) AND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAM.

COL. LUTHRA HAS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A HIGH LEVEL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT THE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTED BY A MEMBER OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH (ICSSR) AND ASSISTED BY NOMINATED EMINENT SOCIAL SCIENTISTS. THE COMMITTEE WILL MEET TWICE YEARLY IN JULY AND DECEMBER TO REVIEW ONGOING RESEARCH PROGRAMS, DEFINE POTENTIAL NEEDS, AREAS AND PRIORITIES AND RECOMMEND RESEARCH PROPOSALS TO BE SUPPORTED BY GOI, OR SRS.

COL. LUTHRA WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO COOPERATE WITH SRS. HE VOLUNTEERED TO KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED ON COMPOSITION OF THE RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MEETING DATES, AGENDA AND RESULTS OF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSALS.

COL. LUTHRA MENTIONED THE GOI DECISION TO ESTABLISH FOUR NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTERS FOR THE TRAINING OF DEAF, BLIND AND ORTHOPAEDICALLY HANDICAPPED. HE REQUESTED SRS ASSISTANCE FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE, TRAINING OF STAFF AND EQUIPMENT. HE WAS ADVISED BY EMBASSY OFFICERS TO PREPARE A PROJECT INDICATING HIS REQUIREMENTS WHICH WOULD BE FORWARDED TO SRS FOR REVIEW AS PART OF THE COOP-
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ERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM. COL. LUTHRA'S ELABORATED ON THE

TYPE OF COOPERATION AS: THE ASSIGNMENT OF SRS CONSULTANTS TO ADVISE ON ESTABLISHING LONGTERM TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, TRAINING OF INDIAN STAFF AT U.S. CENTERS, IMPORTING TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW

AND SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CENTERS. PROGRAMS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AIDS FOR HANDICAPPED WOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST.

AN AREA COL. LUTHRA STRONGLY ADVOCATED RELATES TO CO-SPONSORING OF CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS ON TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO BE HELD IN INDIA AND/OR OTHER COUNTRIES. HE REQUESTED SRS PARTICIPATION IN A JOINT VENTURE TO PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF SCIENTISTS IN GLOBAL MEETINGS. HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING

INFORMATION ON DATES, AGENDA AND RELATED INFORMATION ON FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF MEETINGS

THE RECENT CREATION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION AS THE RESULT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S OCTOBER VISIT TO INDIA WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. HE WELCOMED THE STEP AS ONE THAT WILL PROVIDE A VEHICLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPORTANT JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMS OF HIGH PRIORITY WITH THE GOI, AND THE U.S.

COL. LUTHRA WAS ASSISTED IN HIS DISCUSSIONS BY K.R. RAMACHANDRAN, JOINT SECRETARY, DR. A.B. BOSE, RESEARCH DIRECTOR, AND LAL ADVANI, SPECIAL OFFICER (HANDICAPPED). A LIST OF SRS TERMINATED AND ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS AS WELL AS A LIST OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS OF SRS INTEREST PENDING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE WAS GIVEN TO COL. LUTHRA. HE ASKED HIS RESEARCH DIRECTOR TO REVIEW THESE AND INFORM THE EMBASSY OF APPROVALS OF REQUESTED EXTENSIONS OF ONGOING PROJECTS AND TO FURNISH PARTICULARS OF NEW RESEARCH PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED BY THE RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SRS COLLABORATION.

EMBASSY COMMENTS:

COL. LUTHRA SEEMED CLEAR ON THE CONDUCT OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMS UNDER SFCP/SRS UMBRELLA. THIS WAS QUITE DIFFERENT THAN A YEAR AGO. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO A VISIT BY SRS OFFICIALS PARTICULARLY GARRETT, MCCAVITT, LALLY AND OTHER CONSULTANTS IN THE FIELD OF REHABILITATION OF DEAF, BLIND AND ORTHOPAEDICALLY HANDICAPPED. TO UNCLASSIFIED

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DEFINE AREAS OF MUTUAL RESEACH INTEREST, DEVELOP RESEARCH DESIGNS AND TOOLS TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS OF HIGH PRIORITY. HIS VISIT WITH SRS OFFICIALS IN WASHDC LAST MAY EVIDENTLY WAS HELPFUL AND APPRECIATED BY COL. LUTHRA.

IN A SIMILAR VISIT LAST WEEK WITH DR. GOPALAN, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, HE SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN DEVELOPING RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN SELECTED FIELDS OF INTEREST AS

REPORTED IN SUBJECT LETTER TO DR. MCCAVITT.

IT WOULD BE HIGHLY OPPORTUNE FOR SRS OFFICIALS AND CONSULTANTS TO
VISIT INDIA IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO DISCUSS AND DEVELOP IDEAS
AND MECHANISMS FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION WITH ICME AND THE DEPART-
MENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE.MOYNIHAN

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